



**Transcript of Proceedings had in  
Dave McCormick; et al. v. Adtalem Global  
Education, Inc.**

**Taken On: June 22, 2023**

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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  )  SS.  
COUNTY OF COOK        )

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

DAVE MCCORMICK, individually and     )  
on behalf of all others similarly     )  
situated,                                 )

                                  Plaintiff,     )

                                  vs.                                 )  No. 18 CH 4872

ADTALEM GLOBAL EDUCATION INC.,     )  
formerly known as DEVRY EDUCATION     )  
GROUP, INC., a Delaware                 )  
Corporation; DEVRY UNIVERSITY,         )  
INC., a Delaware corporation,            )

                                  Defendants.                                 )

Report of proceedings had at the  
videoconference hearing in the above-entitled cause  
before the HONORABLE MICHAEL T. MULLEN, Judge of said  
Court, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on June 22, 2023.

1 APPEARANCES (via videoconference):

2

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On behalf of Kroll Settlement Administration.

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1 THE COURT: Morning, everyone. Do we have a  
2 reporter for our proceeding this morning? Has either  
3 side ordered a court reporter?

4 MR. OVCA: Good morning, Your Honor. Yes, we have.  
5 I believe the court reporter is here.

6 THE COURT: All right. If the court reporter would  
7 identify him- or herself, please.

8 THE REPORTER: Hello. This is Brianna  
9 Uhlman-Jones.

10 THE COURT: Good morning. My initial comments are  
11 directed to you before I put everyone on the record. It  
12 is our goal to have an accurate record, certainly an  
13 accurate transcript if one is so ordered. So if you  
14 don't hear what I say, tell me that. I'll repeat  
15 myself. Counsel will do the same. And you understand  
16 that, correct?

17 THE REPORTER: Yes, Judge. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you for being with us.

19 So this is McCormick v. DeVry. Everyone  
20 should identify him- or herself starting with the  
21 plaintiff.

22 MR. TIEVSKY: Good morning, Your Honor. This is  
23 Alexander Tievsky for plaintiff and the class. I'm here  
24 with Michael Ovca today.

1 MR. OVCA: Good morning, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Good morning, gentlemen.

3 Who else is with us?

4 MR. AHMAD: Good morning, Your Honor. Scott Ahmad  
5 from Winston & Strawn and Bailey Brandon as well from  
6 Winston on behalf of nonparty Kroll Settlement  
7 Administration.

8 THE COURT: Very good. Good morning.

9 And there are a number of guests here. And  
10 everyone is welcome. This is a public forum. But you  
11 need to keep yourself on mute. Otherwise, the  
12 proceedings will be disrupted. I know many people have  
13 an interest in this case.

14 So just so it's clear, I did receive a status  
15 report from plaintiff's counsel. There was a  
16 declaration from Scott Fenwick that was attached. I  
17 have reviewed that. I believe I understand the  
18 contents. I also received a report from counsel  
19 relative to the position of Kroll. I have reviewed that  
20 as well. Have there been any discussions since the  
21 submissions?

22 MR. TIEVSKY: Your Honor, I had a brief phone call  
23 yesterday with Mr. Ahmad in which I, you know, explained  
24 effectively what was in the status report and explained

1 our position that, you know, frankly, the options that  
2 we're looking at now are all bad. Right? We're looking  
3 at either further delay for class members, which is not  
4 fair to class members. And, you know, delay in this  
5 kind of case also means that the reality is the longer  
6 we wait, the less likely it is that all class members  
7 will be paid right because as we wait longer, people  
8 move, addresses change. It's -- There is serious  
9 unfairness in that. On the other hand, sending out  
10 checks for the wrong amounts that are already printed is  
11 also not good.

12 And all of this is the result of yet another  
13 error by Kroll in an area where, you know, we didn't  
14 even think there was a need to look for errors. So, you  
15 know, I explained to Mr. Ahmad that we were going to  
16 come to the Court and seek Your Honor's guidance on what  
17 the most fair and equitable way to move forward with  
18 this is.

19 THE COURT: All right. And I do have your status  
20 report, as I indicated. And I know you sent out the  
21 options, which were put in my lap.

22 So, Counsel?

23 MR. AHMAD: Sure. Thank you, Your Honor.  
24 Scott Ahmad from Winston on behalf of Kroll.

1           So as I mentioned in the status report, we  
2 really didn't have time to, you know, react to the  
3 status report. But clearly, the issue had been being  
4 investigated for a couple of weeks by the parties. And  
5 we had been e-mailing them to see when the checks would  
6 be going out and heard nothing.

7           And so in looking at this last night, I think  
8 it's important for Your Honor just to very briefly  
9 understand what the timeline of all of this was. You  
10 know, again, last fall, when the checks were stopped, we  
11 were replaced as the administrator by BrownGreer and by  
12 the parties. And in December, we were here for a -- So  
13 we tendered a revised calculation. This was back in  
14 December of 2022. And then the declaration you saw,  
15 again, what that was was, again, we understood there to  
16 be this error. We fixed that error.

17           So when BrownGreer and the parties received  
18 the settlement calculations and all the data, we no  
19 longer were in custody of that. Right? And we came  
20 here in December. The understanding at that particular  
21 time, if you recall, Your Honor, was that the checks  
22 would go out by the end of the year. And what happened  
23 was was BrownGreer started doing audits of that. And  
24 they said that they didn't think that Kroll got all the

1 data that it needed from DeVry.

2 And so I have the transcript of that hearing,  
3 Your Honor. And they even said that at the time, that  
4 the parties were taking everything -- were taking  
5 everything from there. And we said, "Well, maybe we  
6 should be part of that process." And they said, "No.  
7 We don't trust you. We've got it from here. We're  
8 doing all of these audits and recalculations." That  
9 involved exchanges of information between DeVry and the  
10 parties which we were not part of.

11 And I have it here on the transcript, which I  
12 can file with the Court. But that was December 19th  
13 of 2022, Your Honor. And they said, "And what that  
14 meant is that there is no usefulness that Kroll's data  
15 team could provide at that point. So that's why  
16 BrownGreer and BrownGreer's data team and DeVry's data  
17 team have taken it from here. So that's why there has  
18 been -- Again, there's just no need to include Kroll  
19 because there wasn't any information that they could  
20 provide at that point that was useful."

21 And so then, you know, we had monthly status  
22 conference with Your Honor where we were all coming  
23 back. And they were saying, "BrownGreer is doing all  
24 these audits. We want to make sure that the calculation



1 is right before it goes out." And interestingly, in  
2 that declaration, what they were saying is, you know,  
3 this is a complicated calculation, obviously. It's not  
4 a same payment to every class member. And you have this  
5 scenario where the people that are entitled to  
6 settlements, there's all these factors of whether or not  
7 they get certain payments, etc. And the settlement  
8 administrator kind of -- is making those calls based on  
9 forms. That was the area that they were investigating  
10 in December. And that was where they followed up with  
11 DeVry. They were like, "We don't know, you know, what  
12 criteria was being used to determine class membership,  
13 and so we want to make sure that we go through and we  
14 correct all of that."

15 And so, you know, again, we've not been part  
16 of the process for many months. That was a process that  
17 they told the Court and everybody that they were taking  
18 from there. And again -- And, Your Honor, at that  
19 point, by the way, we didn't necessarily object to them  
20 going forward with that because you'll recall, in the  
21 settlement order, we've been paying BrownGreer and  
22 Edelson's fees. So we've been paying the fees, you  
23 know, for that work.

24 And so, you know, as always, you know, our

1 position here is that we want to continue to be part of  
2 the solution here. Right? You know, and -- You know,  
3 and again, we were paying BrownGreer's fees up and to  
4 this point to do that. And we're happy to discuss those  
5 kinds of things with the party.

6 I think the concern that we have is we have  
7 this situation where for many months, the parties have  
8 been representing to the Court that they're doing their  
9 own work. And now without any notice to us -- And  
10 again, you know, I -- Obviously, you know, when you file  
11 something with the Court the day before like that, you  
12 know, and give no notice to the Court or -- you know, or  
13 to the parties, you know, I have -- I have hypotheses of  
14 how that was designed to kind of create visceral  
15 reactions, you know, for this hearing before we could  
16 have the time to look at it and respond to it.

17 But again, we want to be part of the -- you  
18 know, the overall solution here. But it is  
19 fundamentally incorrect for them to say, "We got this  
20 calculation. We relied on Kroll," because back in  
21 December, which was six months ago, they said they were  
22 taking it from here.

23 And I just want to leave the Court with one  
24 final point that they said. They said, "So the goal has

1    been for us" -- that was them, BrownGreer and the  
2    parties -- "to do it as quickly as possible while also  
3    being accurate" -- this was them in December -- "because  
4    what we don't want is to be six months down the road" --  
5    which we are now -- "and still be in the exact same  
6    position here where we're on the verge of sending out  
7    erroneous settlement payments to people who aren't in  
8    the class that is going to drive down the settlement  
9    value for folks that are in the class." And that was  
10   when they said, "We're taking it from here."

11                So we paid for all that work. We were paying  
12   for BrownGreer's work. And they cut us out of the  
13   process. So for them to turn around, you know, on the  
14   verge of sending out the checks and say, "Oh, you know  
15   what? There was one thing that we were relying on you  
16   for," it's a little bit inaccurate. But I would  
17   communicate to the Court that we do want to be part of  
18   the solution here, and we're willing to work with the  
19   parties to do that. But this is the first we're hearing  
20   of this issue.

21                THE COURT: All right. So finger-pointing is not  
22   helpful. That is for sure. This is an amazingly  
23   frustrating process. I signed off on this settlement a  
24   long time ago anticipating that this would've been

1 complete a long time ago. So there are a lot of people  
2 waiting for money they are entitled to that I have  
3 approved that I thought was fair, reasonable, and  
4 adequate in all respects.

5 And this is how this is going to work: I'm  
6 going to give you a couple of ideas, and I'm going to  
7 see you shortly, shortly. All right?

8 It would be inappropriate, in my opinion, to  
9 issue the checks that have already been printed as there  
10 may be overpayment that will require clawbacks or a  
11 diminution of the settlement moneys. There is a  
12 settlement fund. It is there. It is ready to be  
13 distributed. But it has to be distributed properly,  
14 correctly, quickly, and smoothly. So that's what's  
15 going to happen.

16 That's going to be something the attorneys  
17 work out. This should have been worked out. And I know  
18 the attorneys have worked well with each other in the  
19 past, so I'm a little surprised that this issue, which  
20 is a true obstacle, has prevented the parties from  
21 talking with each other. So you're going to do that.  
22 You're going to do that within seven days. That's  
23 June 29th. I'm going to see the parties. There's going  
24 to be a complete solution to this. I'm going to set

1 this for further status.

2 And, Joe, I'd like to see if we have some time  
3 available on July 6 if we do it early in the morning or  
4 around 1:30. What do we have available?

5 MR. GARZA: Judge, we can do July 6th either at  
6 9:30 or 10:00.

7 THE COURT: Let's -- What does 10:30 look like?

8 MR. GARZA: We can do 10:30.

9 THE COURT: All right. So July 6 at 10:30 we're  
10 going to have further status. So what I'm anticipating  
11 is two things. There will be a very animated, fulsome  
12 discussion between the parties as to how to get this  
13 taken care of. And I want a complete agreement. I want  
14 these checks reissued and distributed with all alacrity.  
15 All right? So that's the goal. There's no need to  
16 further finger-point. We're going to get this correct.  
17 We're going to get it right. And we're going to do it  
18 quickly. So that's what we're going to do.

19 Are there any questions?

20 MR. TIEVSKY: You know, we're -- So I will say that  
21 we have a -- recalculated figures today that we will be  
22 able to share with Kroll by tomorrow. My only question  
23 for the Court is whether the Court thinks that we need  
24 to talk about redoing all of Kroll's work or whether it

1 will be sufficient to correct this latest error that  
2 we've identified and then send out checks, potentially  
3 still relying on -- And this is the third mistake that  
4 we've seen. And, you know, I guess I would like to know  
5 if the Court is concerned about us relying on Kroll's --  
6 any other of Kroll's determinations that we might be  
7 sort of underlyingly relying on to send out these  
8 checks.

9 THE COURT: But, well, Kroll has worked on many  
10 class actions in the past with me, and this is the first  
11 they've ever dropped the ball, so to speak. I'm not  
12 saying they did drop the ball, but it certainly appears  
13 that they have. And if there are concerns that you  
14 have, you need to bring those to my attention.

15 MR. TIEVSKY: The concern, Your Honor, is that, you  
16 know, we were ready to send out checks, and the error  
17 here -- I mean, there's a couple of them, but the  
18 biggest one stems from poor data -- it appears to stem,  
19 at least, from poor data entry.

20 THE COURT: Well, it was the way their form was  
21 drafted. And I know it was ambiguous. And it could  
22 lead to a potential payout of an additional \$430,500. I  
23 did read your submission, Counsel.

24 MR. TIEVSKY: Yeah. I mean, the issue is that

1 it's -- like, the transfer of data from paper forms to  
2 computer, which we just didn't think we had to review.  
3 And so my concern is whether the Court has concerns  
4 about us relying on any -- you know, or auditing any  
5 other areas in which we haven't redone the work,  
6 basically. And if the answer to that is no, we should  
7 fix this error and move forward, then that's fine with  
8 us.

9 THE COURT: This is the only error I'm aware of  
10 that we're discussing. So if you have something else  
11 you need to bring to my attention, do so.

12 MR. TIEVSKY: We don't at this point other --

13 THE COURT: Let's go forward then. Let's get this  
14 taken care of. A lot of people are concerned about  
15 their money. All right? Let's button this up.

16 I'll see you soon. I need an order.  
17 Plaintiff's counsel will prepare it. Everyone have a  
18 great day.

19 MR. TIEVSKY: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 MR. ANDRICHIK: Thank you.

21 (Which were all the proceedings had  
22 in the above-entitled cause on this  
23 date.)

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS.  
2 COUNTY OF COOK )

3

4 Brianna Uhlman, being first duly sworn, on  
5 oath says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter and  
6 Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the  
7 City of Chicago, County of Cook, and the State of  
8 Illinois;


9 That she reported in shorthand the proceedings  
10 had at the foregoing videoconference hearing;

11 And that the foregoing is a true and correct  
12 transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid  
13 and contains all the proceedings had at the said  
14 hearing.

15

16

17

  
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20

21 CSR No. 084-004886

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>a.m</b> 1:17  <b>able</b> 12:22  <b>above-entitled</b>                  1:15 14:22  <b>accurate</b> 3:12,13                  10:3  <b>actions</b> 13:10  <b>additional</b> 13:22  <b>addresses</b> 5:8  <b>adequate</b> 11:4  <b>Administration</b>                  2:19 4:7  <b>administrator</b>                  6:11 8:8  <b>ADTALEM</b> 1:9  <b>aforesaid</b> 15:12  <b>ago</b> 9:21 10:24                  11:1  <b>agreement</b>                  12:13  <b>Ahmad</b> 2:15 4:4                  4:4,23 5:15,23                  5:24  <b>alacrity</b> 12:14  <b>Alexander</b> 2:3                  3:23  <b>amazingly</b> 10:22  <b>ambiguous</b>                  13:21  <b>amounts</b> 5:10  <b>ANDRICHIK</b>                  2:9 14:20  <b>animated</b> 12:11  <b>answer</b> 14:6  <b>anticipating</b>                  10:24 12:10  <b>APPEARAN...</b>                  2:1  <b>appears</b> 13:12                  13:18  <b>approved</b> 11:3  <b>area</b> 5:13 8:9  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